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WEATHER
High: 78
Low: 62
Forecast, 10B

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GREET THE NEW YEAR

From West Palm Beach to Miami, the best places to party.

A toast to toasting

Bar and brewery bashes range from retro to post-apocalyptic. **10B**

SPORTS **Time for healing**

'Canes have benefited from their break before the Orange Bowl. **1C**

LOCAL

Hue not palatable

Boca officials make restaurant repaint its latest repaint. **1B**

Pearl of a library

Long-closed branch to reopen with latest technology. **1B**

S. Florida fast train service to start Jan. 8

By Wayne K. Roustan
Staff writer

Brightline said Thursday it will begin introductory service of its higher-speed passenger trains the week of Jan. 8 — but the company did not release train schedules or ticket prices.

The initial service will run between Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. The MiamiCentral train station is scheduled to be ready within three months.

Parent company All Aboard Florida originally expected the $3 billion Brightline project would launch between Miami and West Palm Beach in the summer. Then it would extend to Orlando by 2020.

A variety of legal, financial and environmental challenges delayed the ambitious project in recent years.

When full service begins on the Florida East Coast Railway tracks, Brightline expects to run 16 round trips per day between Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach with a travel time of about 30 minutes between each station.

When service is extended to Orlando, Brightline officials estimate a three-hour journey.

R.J. Reynolds must keep paying millions

Sale of tobacco brands irrelevant, judge rules

By Brendan Farrington
Associated Press

A judge in Florida ordered R.J. Reynolds to continue paying the state millions of dollars in tobacco settlement money despite selling off major brands.

Circuit Judge Jeffrey Dana Gillen in Palm Beach County issued his ruling Wednesday, nearly a year after Attorney General Pam Bondi sued the tobacco company and Imperial Tobacco Group.

The "ruling will ensure Florida's landmark tobacco settlement is honored and our state receives the money it is owed," Bondi said in a news release.

When Bondi filed the suit last January, she said Florida was already owed $45 million and could lose $30 million a year going forward. Gillen said until R.J. Reynolds has its obligation to pay Florida transferred to Imperial Tobacco Group, it must continue to pay. Last summer, London-based British American Tobacco took over North Carolina-based Reynolds American Inc.

There was no answer at R.J. Reynold's media office Thursday and a message said there was no voice mailbox set up for the line. An email seeking comment wasn't immediately returned.

R.J. Reynolds and other large tobacco companies were part of a

See ***TOBACCO, 10A***

South Florida nears a heat record

JIM RASSOL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

While much of the United States shivered through the holiday season and faces a frosty new year, South Florida is seeing out a year that has broken or neared records. On Thursday in Delray Beach, an afternoon in the low 70s brought people to relax in the sun. **Story, 1B**

Navy couple loses dog as he bolts on SoFla visit

'Joker' roams street as duty keeps them away

By Susannah Bryan
Staff writer

FORT LAUDERDALE – When the family dog goes missing, you find him — unless you're serving your country and can't join the search party.

That's the dilemma facing U.S. Navy couple Christopher and Summer Burgos, whose 2-year-old dog Joker went missing on Dec. 21 after a long flight from San Diego to Fort Lauderdale.

Now the couple are relying on the help of strangers to find their dog – a 40-pound white Canaan with brown specks on his ears and tail. The dog, microchipped and wearing a green and purple collar, was last seen on Sunday near the Harbor Shops on 17th Street in Fort

See ***DOG, 10A***

Joker: Last seen in Lauderdale.

Ruling favors residents in subsidized housing

A federal judge's ruling is intended to make it easier for low-income people to afford apartments in middle-class neighborhoods with better schools, lower crime rates and more job opportunities. The judge ordered the Obama-era rule take effect Jan. 1. It affects several cities and neighborhoods in South Florida. **Story, 6B**

ROSE MARIE ♦ 1923-2017

Staple of Dick Van Dyke Show, Hollywood Squares

Starting with her own NBC Radio show at age 5, Rose Marie went on to build a career on stage, as a singer in nightclubs and as a star in television and movies, complemented by the ever-present black bow in her hair. **Story, 10A**.

Dick Van Dyke, left, Rose Marie and Morey Amsterdam in The Dick Van Dyke Show.
CBS PHOTO ARCHIVE/CBS VIA GETTY IMAGES, 1961

YOUR NATION, YOUR WORLD

Ala. certifies Senate vote over Moore's protests

Democrat Doug Jones' win over Republican Roy Moore is official, despite legal complaint. **3A**

Apple apologizes for furor over phones' battery life

Apple offers discount on battery replacements amid claims service was intentionally slowed. **6A**

As temperatures plunge, cost of heating increases

Arctic blast gripping Midwest, Northeast is especially hard for those who rely on heating aid. **8A**

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